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Viewing cable 09RIYADH447, COUNTERTERRORISM ADVISER BRENNAN’S MEETING WITH

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- The top box shows each cable’s unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
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If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09RIYADH447**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09RIYADH447	2009-03-22 10:14	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET	Embassy Riyadh

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/the-india-cables/article1574327.ece>

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O 221014Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
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S E C R E T RIYADH 000447

NSC FOR JBRENNAN AND JDUNCAN; STATE FOR S/WCI

EO 12958 DECL: 03/16/2019
TAGS PREL, PTER, KWBG, SA, AF, IN, PK, IR, IZ
SUBJECT: COUNTERTERRORISM ADVISER BRENNAN’S MEETING WITH
SAUDI KING ABDULLAH
REF: RIYADH 427
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Classified By: Pol Counselor Lisa Carle, 1.4(b),(d)

¶1. KEY POINTS

-- (S) Saudi King Abdullah welcomed White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan, S/WCI Ambassador Williamson, and Ambassador Fraker to his office. -- (S) Brennan presented the King with a letter from President Obama expressing a personal message of friendship, appreciation for our close relationship, and his confidence in the King. -- (S) The King said he had told Iranian Foreign Minister Mottaki only minutes before that Iran should stop interfering in Arab affairs, and he expressed a complete lack of trust in Iraqi PM al-Maliki and held out little hope for improved Saudi/Iraqi relations as long as the King asked what advice he had for President Obama, the King said he had “one request”: that it was “critically important to restore American-Saudi relations.”

¶2. (S) PLEDGES OF FRIENDSHIP: Brennan asserted that the U.S./Saudi alliance must remain strong, and assured the King of President Obama’s wish for a strong, lasting relationship.

¶3. (S) U.S. CREDIBILITY IS CRITICAL: The Bush Administration is now in the past, the King said. Both President Bushes were his friends, but the U.S. must maintain its credibility.

¶4. (S) THE WORLD NEEDS OBAMA: Brennan said President Obama looked forward to seeing the King at the G-20 summit in London. “Thank God for bringing Obama to the world stage.”

¶5. (C) THAT WITHOUT WHICH NO SAUDI MEETING IS COMPLETE: Abdullah said “as a friend” that “it was a mistake” to limit access of Saudi citizens to Guantanamo Bay.

¶6. (S) GUANTANAMO WILL BE CLOSED: Brennan explained that President Obama had made a commitment to close Guantanamo to eliminate the potential for abuse.

¶7. (S) HOW TO TRACK DETAINEES: “I’ve just thought of something,” the King added, and proposed implanting detainees with an electronic chip comparable to a passport chip.

¶8. (S) A “HEATED EXCHANGE”: The King noted that Iranian FM Mottaki had been “sitting in that same seat (as Brennan) a few moments ago.” The King said he had told Mottaki that Iran should stop interfering in Arab affairs.

¶9. (S) “SPARE US YOUR EVIL”: The King expressed hope the U.S. would review its Iran policy and “come to the right conclusion.” Brennan responded that the U.S. would review its Iran policy.

¶10. (S) AN EMPTY CHANNEL: The King said “three years ago” Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei had sent his adviser Ali Akbar Velayati with a letter to the U.S. asking for a meeting.

¶11. (S) A DANGEROUS NEIGHBORHOOD: Brennan responded that the Saudis lived in a dangerous neighborhood with Iran across the Gulf, with Saudi Arabia and Iran both having nuclear weapons.

¶12. (U) SEE REPTTEL: Ref A provided a separate readout on the Iran discussion and the King’s meeting with Mottaki.

¶13. (S) IN THE HANDS OF GOD AND IRAN: Brennan expressed the importance the U.S. attaches to achieving peace and stability in Iraq. The King responded that Iraqis were in the hands of God.

¶14. (S) NO HOPE FOR MALIKI: The King said he had “no confidence whatsoever in (Iraqi PM) Maliki, and the Ambassador (Fraker) is well aware of the situation in Iraq. The King said he had told Mottaki that Iran should stop interfering in Arab affairs.”

¶15. (S) I MISS MY HORSES: The King appeared alert and at times animated, entertaining his guests with anecdotes about his encounters with Iranian leaders.

¶16. (S) DIALOGUE AND REFORM AS DUTY: In response to Brennan’s praise for the King’s interfaith dialogue initiative, his commitment to advancing reform, and his confidence in the King.

¶17. (S) PARTICIPANTS: Saudi Arabia -- Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz al-Saud -- HRH Prince Mohammed bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, Ambassador Ford Fraker, Assistant to the President John Brennan, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism -- Ambassador Ford Fraker -- Ambassador-at-large for Counterterrorism

¶18. (U) Assistant to the President Brennan cleared this cable.

FRAKER